

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph beginning at page 1, line 10 is amended as follows:

Contact dermatitis is an altered state of skin reactivity induced by exposure to an external agent. (~~American Academy of Dermatology Website, www.aad.org/Guidelines/contderm.html.~~) Substances that produce this condition can be an irritant or an allergen. Irritants cause direct tissue damage while allergens induce an immunologic reaction that causes inflammation and tissue damage. With the enormous number of artificial compounds in the human environment today that can be irritants or allergens, contact dermatitis is becoming more common. Over 2800 substances have been identified as contact allergens. (~~American Academy of Dermatology Website, www.aad.org/Guidelines/contderm.html.~~) Contact dermatitis is responsible for approximately 5.7 million physician visits per year in the U.S. (~~American Academy of Dermatology Website, www.aad.org/Guidelines/contderm.html.~~)

The paragraph beginning at page 1, line 22 is amended as follows:

The term eczema is used to describe all kinds of red, blistering, oozing, scaly, brownish, and itching skin conditions. (~~American Academy of Dermatology Website, www.aad.org/eczema.htm.~~) Examples include seborrheic eczema, nummular eczema, and allergic contact eczema. Eczema is also sometimes used to refer specifically to atopic dermatitis, which is a group of allergic or associated diseases that usually affect several members of a family. These families usually have allergies such as hay fever and asthma. Atopic dermatitis is very common throughout the world. Atopic dermatitis is typically recognized by an itching rash, along with a family history of allergies. (~~American Academy of Dermatology Website, www.aad.org/eczema.htm.~~) It affects about 10% of infants and 3% of the overall U.S. population. (~~American Academy of Dermatology Website, www.aad.org/eczema.htm.~~) The disease can occur at any age, but is most common in infants and young adults. The condition usually improves in childhood or sometime before the age of 25.

The paragraph beginning at page 2, line 6 is amended as follows:

In infancy, atopic dermatitis is evidenced by an itching, oozing, and crusting condition that tends to occur mainly on the face and scalp. (~~American Academy of Dermatology Website, www.aad.org/eczema.htm.~~) If the disease continues or occurs beyond infancy, the skin has less of a tendency to be red, blistering, oozing, and crusting. Instead, the lesions become dry, red to brown, and the skin may become scaly and thickened. An intense, almost unbearable itching can continue. Some patients scratch at their skin until it bleeds and crusts, which can lead to infection.

The paragraph beginning at page 2, line 14 is amended as follows:

Seborrheic dermatitis is another type of eczema. It consists of a red, scaly, itchy rash in the areas of the body with the highest concentration of sebaceous glands. These include the navel, breasts, underarms, groin, and buttocks. (~~American Academy of Dermatology Website, www.aad.org/pamphlets/seborrhe.html.~~)

The paragraph beginning at page 2, line 18 is amended as follows:

Psoriasis is a persistent skin disease in which the skin becomes inflamed, producing red, thickened areas with silvery scales, most often on the scalp, elbows, knees, and lower back. (~~American Academy of Dermatology Website, www.aad.org/pamphlets/Psoriasis.html.~~) The FDA refers to psoriasis as a condition of the scalp or body characterized by irritation, itching, redness, and extreme excess shedding of dead epidermal cells. 21 C.F.R. Chapter 1, Section 358.703 (c). Psoriasis can be so mild that people do not know they have it, or it can be quite severe. The most common form begins with little red bumps that gradually grow larger and form scales. While the top scales flake off easily and often, scales below the surface stick together. When they are removed, the tender, exposed skin bleeds. These small red areas then grow, sometimes becoming quite large. Evidence suggest psoriasis may be caused by malfunctioning white blood cells, causing inflammation in the skin. (~~American Academy of Dermatology~~

~~Website, www.aad.org/pamphlets/Psoriasis.html.)~~ The cells of the skin then divide too rapidly, causing the skin to shed itself every three to four days. ~~(American Academy of Dermatology Website, www.aad.org/pamphlets/Psoriasis.html.)~~ Psoriasis afflicts 2% of the U.S. population and costs the nation between \$2 billion and \$3 billion each year. ~~(www.aad.org/PressReleases/psoriasis_causes_disability.html.)~~

The paragraph beginning at page 45, line 29 is amended as follows:

Any suitable antibiotic agent 16 can be employed, provided the antibiotic agent 16 effectively inhibits the growth or destroys the development of either Gram-positive or Gram-negative organisms and the antibiotic agent 16 remains stable in the therapeutic formulation 5. Preferably, the stability is over a prolonged period of time, e.g., up to about 3 years, up to about 1 year, or up to about 6 months, typically experienced in the manufacturing, packaging, shipping, and/or storage of the adhesive skin patch 1. Suitable antibiotic agents 16 are disclosed, e.g., in Physician's Desk Reference (PDR), Medical Economics Company (Montvale, NJ), (53rd Ed.), 1999; Mayo Medical Center Formulary, Unabridged Version, Mayo Clinic (Rochester, MN), January 1998; Merck Index, An Encyclopedia of Chemicals, Drugs, and Biologicals, (11th Ed.), Merck & Co., Inc. (Rahway, NJ), 1989; University of Wisconsin Antimicrobial Use Guide, <http://www.medsch.wisc.edu/clinsei/amcg/amcg.html>; Introduction on the Use of the Antibiotics Guideline, Descriptions of Specific Antibiotic Classes, Thomas Jefferson University, http://jeffline.tju.edu/CWIS/OAC/antibiotics_guide/intro.html; and references cited therein.

The paragraph beginning at page 52, line 1 is amended as follows:

For example, at standard temperature and pressure, corticosteroids such as hydrocortisone are not typically soluble or stable in aqueous solutions. It has surprisingly been discovered, however, that a suitable complexing agent such as a cyclodextrin can be employed to solubilize and/or stabilize the corticosteroid in the aqueous solution. As used herein, a "cyclodextrin" refers to a non-reducing cyclic oligosaccharide with at least 6 anhydroglucose units linked by alpha 1,4 bonds to form a ring. Cyclodextrins are typically produced by the

action of the enzyme cyclodextrin glucosyltransferase [CGT-ase] on starch. The most common cyclodextrins include alpha, beta, and gamma cyclodextrins, which have six, seven, or eight, respectively, anhydroglucose units in the ring structure. All of the hydroxyl groups in cyclodextrins are oriented to the outside of the ring while the glucosidic oxygen and two rings of the non-exchangeable hydrogen atoms are directed towards the interior of the cavity. This combination gives cyclodextrins a hydrophobic inner cavity and a hydrophilic exterior. See, e.g., ~~the Cerestar website (<http://www.cerestar.com>); the Betadex cyclodextrin website (<http://www.betadexcyclodextrin.com>);~~ and M.L. Bender and M. Komiyama, Cyclodextrin Chemistry, Springer, Berlin, 1978.